



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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APRIL RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA - Commercial red meat production during April 2006 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was down 5 percent from April 2005 and down 14 percent from March 2006 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 542,000 pounds live weight, down 1,000 pounds from April 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,083 pounds, was up 97 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 100,000 pounds live weight, down 9 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 400 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 236 pounds, was up 4 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES - Commercial red meat production totaled 3.61 billion pounds in April, down slightly from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in April 2005.

Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, up 2 percent from April 2005. The average live weight was up 28 pounds from the previous year, at 1,246 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.9 million pounds, 16 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 47,500 head, down 23 percent from April 2005. The average live weight was 26 pounds above last year, at 379 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.61 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.96 million head, 6 percent below April 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was up 9 percent from April 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 248,500 head, 13 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2006 commercial red meat production was 15.1 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

April 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

April 2006 contained 20 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

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